Chapter 286-27 WAC
WASHINGTON WILDLIFE AND RECREATION PROGRAM

WAC 286-27-010  What is the purpose of this chapter?  (a) Critical habitat category;  
(b) Natural areas category;  
(c) Urban wildlife habitat category; and  
(d) Restoration-enhancement on state lands category.

WAC 286-27-045  What is a conversion of use?  A "conversion" occurs when interests in real property and facil-

WAC 286-27-020  Effective date.

WAC 286-27-030  Definitions.

WAC 286-27-050  Planning requirements, habitat conservation account.

WAC 286-27-060  Project conversions.

WAC 286-27-070  Participation manuals.

WAC 286-27-080  Funded projects.

(1) Farmlands preservation account.
(2) Habitat conservation account:

WAC 286-27-040  Does the WWRP have planning requirements?  
WAC 286-27-045  What is a conversion of use?  
WAC 286-27-055  Are there long-term obligations for acquiring interest in real property?  
WAC 286-27-065  Are there long-term obligations for development projects?

WAC 286-27-061  Are there long-term obligations for restoration projects?

WAC 286-27-066  What additional rules apply to conversions of use?

WAC 286-27-071  What rules apply to the sale of farmland?

WAC 286-27-075  Are matching resources required—Are there caps?

WAC 286-27-080  Funded projects.

286-27-085  What is a conversion of use? A "conversion" occurs when interests in real property and facil-

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ties acquired, developed, renovated, enhanced or restored with WWRP funds are converted to uses other than those for which the funds were originally approved and described in the project agreement with the committee. Interests in real property include, but are not limited to, options, rights of first refusal, conservation easements, leases, and mineral rights.


**WAC 286-27-055 Are there long-term obligations for acquiring interest in real property?** Yes. Sponsors must execute an instrument(s) containing these provisions:

1. For acquisition of perpetual interest in real property:
   - A legal description of the property acquired;
   - A conveyance to the state of Washington of the right to use the described real property for farmland, habitat conservation, and/or outdoor recreation purposes; and
   - Except as provided in WAC 286-27-066, agreement to a prohibition on conversion of use.

2. For acquisition of nonperpetual interest in real property:
   - A legal description of the property and a description of the interests acquired;
   - A conveyance to the state of Washington of the right to use the described real property for farmland, habitat conservation, and/or outdoor recreation purposes for the term of the lease or easement;
   - Except as provided in WAC 286-27-066, agreement to a prohibition on conversion of use;
   - A lease(s) or easement(s) period of at least fifty years except for:
     - Farmlands preservation account projects which shall be for at least twenty-five years;
     - Projects that extend conservation reserve enhancement program leases which shall be for at least twenty-five years;
   - Is not revocable at will;
   - Has a value supported through appraisal methods approved by the committee;
   - Terms of payment between the sponsor and seller.


**WAC 286-27-061 Are there long-term obligations for restoration projects?** Yes.

1. Unless otherwise approved by the committee, environmental restoration and enhancement projects granted WWRP funds must continue to provide the functions for which the funds were originally approved and not be converted to any other use.

2. When approving such a conversion, the committee shall require the grant recipient or successor to provide for environmental restoration or enhancement as a replacement. When approving the replacement, committee considerations shall include the intended ecological benefits of the replacement compared to those of the original project and likelihood that the replacement project will be successful.


**WAC 286-27-065 Are there long-term obligations for development projects?** Yes.

1. Properties, structures, and facilities developed with the assistance of money granted by the committee shall not be converted except as provided in WAC 286-27-066.

2. Properties, structures, and facilities developed with the assistance of money granted by the committee shall be built, operated, and maintained according to applicable regulations, laws, building codes, and health standards to assure a reasonably safe condition and to prevent premature deterioration.

3. Properties, structures, and facilities intended for public use shall meet state and federal accessibility guidelines and nondiscrimination laws, regulations, and policies; be maintained to a standard that encourages use; and be open and available to the public at reasonable hours and times of the year.


**WAC 286-27-066 What additional rules apply to conversions of use?** (1) Except as provided in this section, interest in real property and facilities acquired, developed, renovated, enhanced or restored with WWRP funds shall not, without prior approval of the committee be converted other than those for which the funds were originally approved.

2. The committee shall assure the substitution or replacement of interest in real property and/or facilities in accordance with this chapter.

3. The committee shall only approve conversions when:
   - All practical alternatives to the conversion have been evaluated and rejected; and
   - The sponsor or successor will provide another interest in real property(s) and/or facilities to serve as a replacement. The replacement must:
     - Be of equivalent or greater usefulness and location;
     - Be administered by the same sponsor or successor unless otherwise approved by the committee;
     - Satisfy need(s) identified in the most recent plan(s) required under WAC 286-27-040;
     - Be eligible to receive a grant in the WWRP account or category from which funds were originally allocated, unless otherwise authorized by the committee;
     - If acquisition of interests in real property: Be interest in real property(ies) of at least equal market value and public benefit at the time of replacement;
     - If a development: Provide a facility of at least equal market value and public benefit as that which existed at the time of the original investment of WWRP funds; and
(vii) If a restoration or enhancement project: Provide restoration or enhancement activities necessary to replicate the ecological benefit intended by the project.

(4) Projects authorized by the Interstate Commerce Commission under section 8(d) of the National Trails System Act, 16 U.S.C. § 1247(d) shall convert to railroad purposes automatically upon reactivation of a line for rail purposes under an ICC order. Substitution or replacement with interest in real property, facilities or moneys which are of at least equal market value at the time of replacement may be required.


WAC 286-27-071 What rules apply to the sale of farmland? (1) Any moneys from the sale of farmland acquired by a city or county in fee simple with farmlands preservation account funds, along with any net income derived from agricultural activities on the property, shall be returned to the farmlands preservation account, or, used by the city or county to purchase interests in additional farmland properties. The city or county may deduct expenses associated with the transaction and management of the property as authorized by the committee.

(2) The sale of the farmland and use of funds to purchase additional farmland properties must be approved by the committee.


WAC 286-27-075 Are matching resources required—Are there caps? Yes. Consistent with RCW 79A.15.060(4) and 79A.15.070(4), the committee will establish sponsor matching share requirements and fund request limits.